



December 22, 2010

Joe Yun
Department of Water Resources
DIRWM
P.O. BOX 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Comments on Funding Recommendations for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Grants

Dear Mr. Yun,

The San Diego Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) – comprised of the San Diego County Water Authority, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego – wishes to sincerely thank the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for its recent recommendation to fully fund our *San Diego IRWM Planning Grant Proposal*. This funding will allow the San Diego region to update our 2007 IRWM Plan, including existing sections on regional priorities and metrics, ongoing stakeholder involvement, coordination with our Tri-County neighbors, and long-term governance. It will also support the development of critical new content such as collaboration with the Regional Board, salinity and nutrient planning, and integrated flood management.

As a member of the Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (Tri-County FACC), we remain committed to ongoing coordination with the South Orange County and Upper Santa Margarita IRWM regions. The planning and integration of water management priorities, projects, and programs across our county boundaries is critical to the long-term success of all three regions. With this in mind, we support the planning grant proposals for both the South Orange County and Upper Santa Margarita IRWM regions. We appreciate that DWR fully funded the South Orange County grant proposal and we request that you provide full funding to the Upper Santa Margarita grant proposal.

In particular, we support Upper Santa Margarita RWMG's request that DWR consider rescoring its *Upper Santa Margarita IRWM Planning Grant Proposal* as clarified in their comment letter. Funding of all three Tri-County planning grants is critical to solving long-standing water management conflicts among the regions. If DWR is unable to fund Upper Santa Margarita RWMG's planning grant through rescoring alone, the San Diego region would support shifting a portion of Round 2 planning funding and/or Round 1 implementation funding (within our Tri-County MOU allocations) to the Upper Santa Margarita's proposal. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this request.

We appreciate the open process taken to funding IRWM planning activities and are looking forward to continuing to work with DWR in the future to develop our IRWM program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Stadler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Stadler
San Diego IRWM Program Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

*Cc: Regional Water Management Group
Regional Advisory Committee*